

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejections presented in the Office Action dated April 19, 2006 (hereinafter Office Action) have been considered. Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the pending claims and allowance of the application in view of the present response is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, and under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this office action.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the time he spent discussing this patent application during the Examiner Interview held via telephone on July 6, 2006. Based on that discussion, the Examiner agreed that certain changes to independent Claims 1 and 10 would overcome the rejections contained in the Office Action dated April 19, 2006.

While not acquiescing to the rejections based on either first or second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, the Applicant has amended the claims to change the term “node data value” to “data value” to address the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. To address the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, the Applicant has inserted the term “each bit of the message to be sent” as shown in the Amendments to the Claims below.

As discussed in the interview regarding the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, during bit-wise arbitration as described in the present application, and as commonly known in the art, each sending node continues to perform bitwise arbitration until the node either loses arbitration or completes its entire message. As such, nodes need not (and usually don't) make any differentiation between header and data values when arbitrating each bit. Applicant believes this was described in the originally filed claims, which stated “each node while sending senses the signal level on the data path during each *bit interval*, and if the sensed signal level differs from that sent by that node, halts further sending of *signal levels* by that node.” (emphasis added). The “bit intervals” and “signal

levels” are associated with the bit values of the send register (“sending on the data path during successive *bit intervals* the signal values specified by *bit values* in sequential bit positions of the *send register*”) (emphasis added). The “send register [records] the bits of a message to be sent,” thus it can be inferred from the original claim language that the “sensing” and “halting” actions are performed for each bit in the message. Nonetheless, in a *bona fide* attempt to advance the Application to allowance, Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the operation of the nodes. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 1-17.

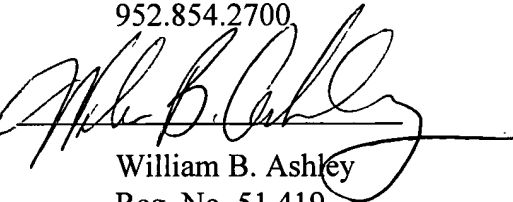
Authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3581 (HONY.033PA) any necessary fees for this filing. If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the undersigned attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 19 July, 2006

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William B. Ashley', is written over a horizontal line.

William B. Ashley
Reg. No. 51,419